

CLAIMS

1. A method of managing the performance of intelligent network services in an intelligent network, which comprises a number of service control points and at least one service switching point, which comprises triggering data of one or more intelligent network services, which include the address data of the service control point to which the intelligent network service request made to start the intelligent network service in question is sent, **characterized** by

controlling the performance of intelligent network services requested by said at least one service switching point in the control points by changing, if necessary, the address data of the control point in which the intelligent network service is to be performed into the triggering data of one or more intelligent network services included in the service switching point.

2. A method according to claim 1, **characterized** in that at least one of said service control points is a master control point in which the load data of one or more control points and/or data on the intelligent network services offered by one or more control points are maintained, the performance of intelligent network services being directed to the control points on the basis of said data maintained in the master control point.

3. A method according to claim 2, **characterized** by directing an intelligent network service request made by a service switching point to the master control point when said intelligent network service is being started for the first time,

selecting, in the master control point, a control point in which said intelligent network service is to be performed, and

changing the address data of the selected control point into the triggering data of said intelligent network service in the service switching point.

4. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, **characterized** by

replacing a certain control point used for one or more intelligent networks services by one or more service switching points with another control point if the control point concerned is overloaded.

5. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 4, **characterized** by

replacing a certain control point used for one or more intelligent network services by one or more service switching points with another control point for a predetermined period, if necessary, e.g. for the duration of the service of the control point in question.

5 6. A method according to any one of claims 2 to 5, **characterized** by

directing an intelligent network service request made by a service switching point to the master control point if the control point to which the intelligent network service request was primarily sent does not answer to the request within a predetermined period,

10 selecting, in the master control point, a control point in which said intelligent network service is to be performed, and

changing the address data of the selected control point into the triggering data of said intelligent network service in the service switching point.

15 7. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 6, **characterized** by

transferring state data of a running intelligent network service from a previously used control point to a control point to which the performance of the intelligent network service is transferred.

20 8. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 7, **characterized** by

connecting more control points to the intelligent network or disconnecting control points from the intelligent network according to the load situation.

25 9. A method according to any one of claims 2 to 8, **characterized** by

transferring the functionality of the master control point from one control point to another.

30 10. An intelligent network which comprises a number of service control points (100 to 103) and at least one service switching point (105), which comprises triggering data of one or more intelligent network services, which include the address data of the service control point (100 to 103) to which the intelligent network service request made to start the intelligent network service in question is sent, **characterized** in that

35 the intelligent network is arranged to control the performance of intelligent network services requested by said at least one service switching

point (105) in the control points (100 to 103) by changing, if necessary, the address data of the control point (100 to 103) in which the intelligent network service is to be performed into the triggering data of one or more intelligent network services included in the service switching point (105).

5 11. An intelligent network according to claim 10, **characterized** in that at least one of said service control points (100 to 103) is a master control point (100) which is arranged to

collect and maintain load data (10) of one or more control points (100 to 103) and/or maintain data (11) on the intelligent network services offered by one or more control points (100 to 103), and

10 direct the performance of intelligent network services to the control points (100 to 103) on the basis of said data (10, 11) to be maintained.

12. An intelligent network according to claim 11, **characterized** in that

15 the service switching point (105) is arranged to send an intelligent network service request to start an intelligent network service to the master control point (100) when said intelligent network service is started for the first time,

20 the master control point (100) is arranged to select, in response to the intelligent network service request, a control point (100 to 103) in which said intelligent network service is to be performed and to transmit the intelligent network service request to the selected control point,

25 the control point (100 to 103) is arranged to answer to the service switching point (105) that requested the intelligent network service in response to the intelligent network service request transmitted by the master control point (100), and

the service switching point (105) is arranged to change the address data of the selected control point into the triggering data of said intelligent network service in response to the answer sent by the control point.

30 13. An intelligent network according to claim 11 or 12, **characterized** in that

35 the master control point (100) is arranged to send a request to one or more service switching points (105) for replacing a certain control point (100 to 103) used by the service switching point for one or more intelligent network services with another control point in response to overloading of said control point or, if necessary, because of the service of said control point, for example.

14. An intelligent network according to any one of claims 11 to 13,
characterized in that

the service switching point (105) is arranged to send an intelligent
network service request made to start an intelligent network service to the
5 master control point (100) in response to the fact that the control point (100 to
103) to which the intelligent network service request was primarily sent does
not answer to the request within a predetermined period,

the master control point (100) is arranged to select, in response to
the intelligent network service request, a control point (100 to 103) in which
10 said intelligent network service is to be performed and to transmit the intelli-
gent network service request to the selected control point,

the control point (100 to 103) is arranged to answer to the service
switching point (105) that requested the intelligent network service in response
to the intelligent network service request transmitted by the master control
15 point (100), and

the service switching point (105) is arranged to change the address
data of the selected control point into the triggering data of said intelligent net-
work service in response to the answer sent by the control point.

15. An intelligent network according to any one of claims 10 to 14,
20 **characterized** in that

the intelligent network is arranged to transfer state data of a running
intelligent network service from a previously used control point to a control
point to which the performance of the intelligent network service is to be trans-
ferred.

25 16. An intelligent network according to any one of claims 10 to 15,
characterized in that

the intelligent network is arranged to increase or decrease the num-
ber of control points (100 to 103) according to the load situation.

30 17. An intelligent network according to any one of claims 11 to 16,
characterized in that

the functionality of the master control point (100) can be transferred
from one control point (100 to 103) to another.

18. A service control point of an intelligent network, which com-
prises a number of service control points (100 to 103) and at least one service
35 switching point (105), which comprises triggering data of one or more intelli-
gent network services, which include the address data of the service control

point (100 to 103) to which the intelligent network service request made to start the intelligent network service in question is sent, **characterized** in that the service control point (100) is arranged to

5 collect and maintain load data of one or more control points (100 to 103) and/or maintain data on the intelligent network services offered by one or more control points (100 to 103) and

direct the performance of intelligent network services to the control points (100 to 103) on the basis of said data (10, 11) to be maintained by changing the address data of the control point (100 to 103) in which said intelligent network service is to be performed into the triggering data of one or
10 more intelligent network services included in the service switching point (105).

19. A service control point according to claim 18, **characterized** in that

the service control point (100) is arranged to send a request to one
15 or more service switching points (105) for replacing a certain control point (100 to 103) used by the service switching point for one or more intelligent network services with another control point in response to overloading of said control point or, if necessary, because of the service of said control point, for example.

20. A service switching point of an intelligent network, which comprises a number of service control points (100 to 103) and at least one service switching point (105), which comprises triggering data of one or more intelligent network services, which include the address data of the service control point (100 to 103) to which the intelligent network service request made to start the intelligent network service in question is sent, **characterized**
25 in that the service switching point (105) is arranged to

replace the control point (100 to 103) used for one or more intelligent network services with another control point in response to a request sent by a control point (100 to 103) by changing the address data of the control point (100 to 103) in which said intelligent network service is to be performed
30 into the triggering data of the intelligent network service.

21. A service switching point according to claim 20, **characterized** in that the service switching point (105) is arranged to send the intelligent network service request made to start the intelligent network service to a predetermined control point (100 to 103) in response to the fact that the
35 control point (100 to 103) to which the intelligent network service request was primarily sent does not answer to the request within a predetermined period.